

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule that inhibits the classical complement pathway and the alternative complement pathway.
2. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule according to claim 1 which inhibits cleavage of C5 by classical and alternative C5 convertases.
3. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule that inhibits cleavage of C5 by a C5 convertase.
4. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule of claim 3, wherein the C5 convertase is a C5 convertase of the classical pathway.
5. (original) A complement inhibitor of claim 3, wherein the C5 convertase is a C5 convertase of the alternative complement pathway.
6. (currently amended) A complement inhibitor according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 2 to 5~~ which inhibits cleavage of C5 by binding to C5.
7. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule according to claim 6 complexed with C5.
8. (currently amended) A complement inhibitor molecule according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 7~~, which is derived from a haematophagous arthropod.
9. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule according to claim 8 wherein said haematophagous arthropod is a tick.
10. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule according to claim 9, wherein said tick is *Ornithodoros moubata*.
11. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule according to claim 10, comprising amino acids 19 to 168 of the amino acid sequence in Figure 4 or a functional equivalent thereof.

12. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule according to claim 10, comprising amino acids 1 to 168 of the amino acid sequence in Figure 4 or a functional equivalent thereof.

13. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule that inhibits the classical complement pathway and the alternative complement pathway, wherein said complement inhibitor is:

- a protein comprising amino acids 19 to 168 or amino acids 1 to 168 of the amino acid sequence in Figure 4;
- a homologue of a protein as defined in a) having at least 60% identity thereto; or
- an active fragment of a protein as defined in a) above or of a homologue as defined in b) above.

14. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule that inhibits cleavage of C5 by a C5 convertase, wherein said complement inhibitor is:

- a protein comprising amino acids 19 to 168 or amino acids 1 to 168 of the amino acid sequence in Figure 4;
- a homologue of a protein as defined in a) having at least 60% identity thereto; or
- an active fragment of a protein as defined in a) above or of a homologue as defined in b) above.

15. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule according to claim 14 which inhibits cleavage of C5 by direct binding to C5.

16. (original) A complement inhibitor molecule according to claim 15 complexed with C5.

17. (currently amended) An antibody which binds to a complement inhibitor molecule or a functional equivalent thereof according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 to 16.

18. (currently amended) A fusion protein comprising a complement inhibitor molecule or a functional equivalent thereof according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 to 17 that is genetically or chemically fused to one or more peptides or polypeptides.

19. (original) A fusion protein according to claim 18 wherein said complement inhibitor molecule or functional equivalent thereof is genetically or chemically fused to a marker domain.
20. (original) A fusion protein according to claim 19 wherein said marker domain is a radiochemical tag.
21. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a complement inhibitor molecule or a functional equivalent thereof according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 16~~ or a fusion protein ~~according to any one of claims 18 to 20 thereof, said fusion protein comprising said complement inhibitor molecule or functional equivalent thereof, that is genetically or chemically fused to one or more peptides or polypeptides.~~
22. (original) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21 comprising nucleotides 53 to 507 of the nucleotide sequence in Figure 4 or a functional equivalent thereof.
23. (original) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21 comprising nucleotides 1 to 507 of the nucleotide sequence in Figure 4 or a functional equivalent thereof.
24. (currently amended) An antisense nucleic acid molecule which hybridises under high stringency hybridisation conditions to a nucleic acid molecule according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 21 to 23~~.
25. (currently amended) A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 21 to claim 24 or an antisense nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to said nucleic acid molecule.~~
26. (currently amended) A host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 21 to 23~~, an antisense nucleic acid molecule ~~which hybridizes under high stringency hybridization conditions to said nucleic acid molecule, according to claim 24 or a vector according to claim 25 comprising said nucleic acid molecule.~~
27. (currently amended) A method for preparing a complement inhibitor molecule or a functional equivalent thereof according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 16~~ or a fusion protein ~~according to claims 18 to 20 thereof, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 26 under conditions whereby said protein is expressed and recovering said protein thus produced, said host cell~~

comprising a nucleic acid molecule, an antisense nucleic acid molecule, or a vector, and said nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding said complement inhibitor molecule or equivalent thereof.

28. (currently amended) A method of identifying a ligand of a complement inhibitor molecule or a functional equivalent thereof according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 16~~ comprising the step of:

- (a) contacting the complement inhibitor molecule or functional equivalent thereof with a candidate ligand; and
- (b) detecting the formation of a ligand-complement inhibitor molecule complex.

29. (currently amended) A composition comprising a complement inhibitor molecule according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 16~~, a fusion protein thereof, according to any one of claims 18 to 20, or a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding said complement inhibitor molecule or equivalent thereof, according to any one claims 21 to 23 in conjunction with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30. (original) A composition according to claim 29 further comprising an adjuvant.

31. canceled

32. (currently amended) A method of treating an animal suffering from a complement-mediated disease or disorder or preventing an animal developing a complement-mediated disease or disorder comprising administering to said animal a complement inhibitor molecule or a functional equivalent thereof according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 16~~, a fusion protein thereof according to any one of claims 18 to 20, a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding said complement inhibitor molecule or equivalent thereof, in conjunction with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier according to any one of claims 21 to 23, or a composition comprising any of the foregoing, according to claim 29 or 30 in a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount.

33. canceled

34. (currently amended) A method according to claim 32 ~~or use according to claim 33~~ wherein said disease or disorder is Alzheimer's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, glomerulonephritis, reperfusion injury, transplant rejection, sepsis, immune complex disorder or delayed-type hypersensitivity.

35. (currently amended) A method of vaccinating an animal against a disease or disorder transmitted by a haematophagous arthropod comprising administering to said animal a complement inhibitor molecule or a functional equivalent thereof according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 to 16, a fusion protein thereof, according to any one of claims 18 to 20, a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding said complement inhibitor molecule or equivalent thereof, in conjunction with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier according to any one of claims 21 to 23, or a composition of any of the foregoing according to claim 29 or claim 30.

36. canceled

37. (currently amended) A method according to claim 35 ~~or use according to claim 36~~, wherein the haematophagous arthropod is *O. moubata*.

38. (currently amended) A method ~~or a use~~ according to claim 37 wherein the disease or disorder is relapsing fever, African swine fever or West Nile fever.

39. canceled

40. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting the classical and alternative complement pathways in a cell, tissue or non-human organism comprising administering to said cell, tissue or organism, a complement inhibitor according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 to 16, a fusion protein thereof according to claim 18-20, or a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding said complement inhibitor molecule or equivalent thereof, in conjunction with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier according to any one claims 21-23.